



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL AND HEALTH SERVICES**  
*Aging and Long-Term Support Administration*  
*PO Box 45600, Olympia, Washington 98504-5600*

June 23, 2022

**AL TSA: NH #2022-038**

**EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS: REMINDER ABOUT MAXIMUM TEMPERATURES IN NURSING HOME SETTINGS**

Dear Nursing Facility/Home Administrator:

Washington state continues to see record high temperatures during the summer months. These extreme temperatures can negatively affect individuals, especially those with chronic or acute medical conditions, behavioral health conditions, and vulnerable populations like nursing home residents. Over the past few years, there has been an increase in the number of deaths reported related to exposure to extreme temperatures. As the season approaches, the Department of Social and Health Services is reminding providers about the regulations requiring providers to maintain safe and comfortable temperatures in nursing homes.

The following rules apply to nursing homes:

**Chapter 388-97-0880 WAC- Environment**

(3) Comfortable and safe temperature levels:

- (a) Facilities licensed after October 1, 1990 must maintain a temperature range of seventy-one to eighty-one degrees Fahrenheit; and
- (b) Regardless of external weather conditions, all nursing homes must develop and implement procedures and processes to maintain a temperature level that is comfortable and safe for residents.

**F584 – Safe Environment**

**42 CFR §483.10(i)(6)** Comfortable and safe temperature levels. Facilities initially certified after October 1, 1990 must maintain a temperature range of 71 to 81° F.

Thank you for your continued commitment to resident health and safety. If you have any questions, please contact Molly McClintock, Nursing Home Policy Program Manager, at (360) 742-6966 or [molly.mcclintock@dshs.wa.gov](mailto:molly.mcclintock@dshs.wa.gov).

Sincerely,

Mike Anbesse, Director  
Residential Care Services

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